Setting up of Consulates in Bangalore

2708. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up with the United States and the United Kingdom Governments the need to set up Consulates in Bangalore in view of ever increasing demand for visas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The decision to set up a Consulate is taken by the country concerned taking into accounts its requirements and priorities. There are no proposals from the governments of the United States or the United Kingdom to open their consulates in Bangalore.

India's Presence in OIC in Malaysia

2709. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India attended the meet of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) held in last week of June, 2000 in Malaysia;

(b) whether any protests made against the Pakistan scripted resolution for international mediation for the people of Kashmir; and

(c) the steps proposed to brief all Islamic nationals regarding Kashmir problem created by Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government of India, in a press release dated 6th July, 2000, outrightly rejected the resolution. It reiterated that such resolutions and pronouncements of the OIC on matters that are entirely within the domestic jurisdiction of India are totally unacceptable; and that OIC has no locus standi whatsoever on the

subject of Jammu and Kashmir or any other subject that relates to India's internal affairs.

(c) Governments of the friendly countries who are members of OIC have been briefed by our envoys on the factual position regarding the cross border terrorism in Kashmir being sponsored by Pakistan.

Indo-Pak Talks in Beijing

2710. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the newsitem, "Indo-Pak talks to be held in Beijing" appearing in the 'Business Standard' dated 17th July, 2000;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether the proposed three-member Indian team has any official blessing and authority to discuss the sensitive bilateral issues between India and Pakistan;

(d) to what extent the semi-official level talks of the two teams would be binding on their respective Government; and

(e) what is the practical utility of such dialogue on serious and sensitive issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (e) Government have seen the report appearing in the Business Standard of 17.7.2000. Indian participants to the seminar organized by the German Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Beijing had no official or 'semi-official' mandate.